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BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1951



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

Her Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Blandford.

The Annual Report on the health and sanitary
circumstances of the Borough is submitted for your information
and consideration.

Much of the routine sanitary work of the Public
Health Department has not been carried out, nor can be, until the
Department is adequately staffed.

The Borough has been very fortunate in having the
honorary services of Mr. Tait, a retired Surveyor and Sanitary
Inspector, who has continued to help throughout the year. I
should like to take this opportunity of thanking him for his un-
failing courtesy and for all the work he has done.

I have much appreciated the help and co-operation
given to me by my professional colleagues in practice in the
Borough.

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the Council
and other Council officials who have extended to me courtesy and
assistance.

J.B.M. Mayes.

JULY, 1952

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



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B O R O U G H O F B L A N D F O R D

H E R W O R S H I P T H E M A Y O R

COUNCILLOR MRS. E.M. BIDDULPH

D E P U T Y M A Y O R

COUNCILLOR P.J. LUCAS.

A L D E R M E N

Miss E.G. Castleman-Smith, M.B.E., J.P.

D. S. Cuff.

B.C. Hunt.

W.J. Newman.

C O U N C I L L O R S .

J.L. Carter.

C.B. Faulkner.

B. Gent.

G.R.J. Haskett.

Brigadier P.P.King.

R.J.W. King.

R.C.H. Legg.

C.M. Timbrell.

J. Trickett.

F. Wyatt.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.B.M. Mayes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

TEMPORARY SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

L. Tait, C.E., C.R.S.I.

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Major F. Bockott, F.R.C.V.S., and his Staff.
(acting as meat inspector)

SECTION A
GENERAL STATISTICS

1. Area of the Borough..... 253 acres.
2. Population (a) at Census, 1931.....3371
(b) at June, 1951.....3557
3. Total number of inhabited houses on
31st December, 1951.....1,372
4. Rateable Value at 1st April, 1951.....£26, 263
Sum represented by penny rate..... £ 102.3.11d

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

for the year 1951

(As supplied by the Registrar General)

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Total Registered.....	67	32	35
Legitimate.....	63	30	33
Illegitimate.....	4	2	2

DEATHS

Total registered.....	63	28	35
-----------------------	----	----	----

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

Total registered.....	1	1	0
Legitimate.....	1	1	0
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	<u>Blandford</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1000 estimated home population.....	18.84	15.5.
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 home population.	0.84	0.36
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	17.71	12.5
Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births.....	14.93	29.6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING
THE YEAR..... 1951
(Supplied by the Registrar General)

	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1.	Tuberculosis.....	1	0	1
2.	Cancer.....	1	7	8
3.	Vascular lesions of nervous system...	2	9	11
4.	Coronary Disease.....	1	0	1
5.	Other diseases of the heart.....	10	10	20
6.	Other circulatory diseases.....	2	0	2
7.	Influenza.....	2	1	3
8.	Pneumonia.....	0	1	1
9.	Bronchitis.....	1	2	3
10.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	0	1	1
11.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	2	1	3
12.	All other causes.....	6	3	9
<hr/>				
	TOTALS.....	28	35	63

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS

The birth rate for the past three years have been similar. 18.84 in 1951, 18.33 in 1950, and 18.6 in 1949. Live births exceed the number of deaths by four. Three stillbirths have been recorded.

The crude Birth Rate was 18.84 per 1,000 estimated home population. By applying the comparability factor of 1.03, the standardised Birth Rate was 19.40.

DEATHS

63 persons died in 1951. 28 males and 35 females. Of these 38 were over 70 years of age. The crude Death Rate was 17.71 per 1,000 estimated home population. By applying the comparability factor of 0.81, the standardised Death Rate was 14.35. The comparability factor is worked out for each district by the Registrar General. The purpose of this factor is to level out differences in the age and sex constitution of the population of the various districts and enable more accurate comparisons to be made of birth and death rates in other areas. There were no deaths from diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, scarlet fever, meningococcal infection, nor from poliomyelitis. There were no maternal deaths. In 1951, one infant died under one year of age, compared with two during last year.

MEMORANDUM

TO : THE PRESIDENT

FROM : THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

DATE: [Illegible]

1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

3. [Illegible]

4. [Illegible]

5. [Illegible]

6. [Illegible]

7. [Illegible]

8. [Illegible]

9. [Illegible]

10. [Illegible]

11. [Illegible]

12. [Illegible]

13. [Illegible]

14. [Illegible]

15. [Illegible]

16. [Illegible]

17. [Illegible]

SECTION BGENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH
SERVICE.PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester has given the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious, or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the District is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castleman House. This service also covers the Rural District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The Dorset County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre once a fortnight at the Congregational Hall.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The Dorset County Council provide an Ante-Natal Clinic once a fortnight at the Congregational Hall.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Domestic Help Service has continued in Blandford during 1951 under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council.

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SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The water is supplied by the Blandford Water Undertaking, owned by the Council. Full pressure was maintained throughout the year. The two sources of water are at Black Lane and Blandford St. Mary. The former, a group of "shallow wells" and adits, and the latter a "shallow well" with an adit. The depth of the wells do not exceed 40 feet. During the year both supplies were chlorinated by drip feeds into the wells. The new borehole at Black Lane has been developed. The water was connected to the pumping well in October.

The results of the samples taken through the year were satisfactory. The need for constant and careful chlorination of both supplies is essential as both are potential sources of easy pollution.

The estimated total pumped into the supply during 1951 was 139,464,950 gallons, but as part of this was consumed by the Rural District, exact town figures are not available.

BLANDFORD ST. MARY. 5 samples taken, all Class 1.

NEW BOREHOLE AT BLACK LANE. 5 samples taken, 4 Class 1, 1 Class 11.

The sample falling into Category 2 was the first sample taken after constructional work had been completed and before connection to the Public Supply. Subsequent samples were all Class 1.

BLACK LANE PUMPING STATION. 4 samples taken, all Class 1.

DISTRIBUTION MAINS. 8 samples taken, all Class 1.

Houses supplied with standpipes..... 257

Houses supplied with water inside the premises..... 105

SWIMMING BATHS.

Against the advice of the Medical Officer of Health, the baths were open in the summer. The Council has made some improvement in the condition of the baths, but the public is not adequately safeguarded, the conditions prevailing do not comply with the standards laid down in the Model Bye-laws drafted by the Ministry of Health.

Three samples of water were taken from the SWIMMING BATHS and proved satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No major work was carried out during the year. The sewage disposal works have been working as well as can be expected, but they are unable to work efficiently, as large scale repairs are needed. The works are in urgent need of a supply of clean water and sanitary accommodation. Any cleaning done by the workmen necessitates using sewage as there is no clean water available.

Chemical results of Analysis of Effluent before and after filtration taken by the Public Analyst are herewith appended:-

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Of a sample of EFFLUENT

Marked Blandford Sewage Disposal Works (Taken before Filtration)
Received from the Borough Surveyor, Blandford on the 23rd February.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned Sample
with the following results:- (expressed in parts per million)

Ammonia, free.....	3.600.
Ammonia, Albuminoid.....	6.600.
Nitrites.....	Present.
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	3.35
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 degrees F.	6.729
Chlorine.....	33.5
Suspended Solids.....	24.0
Dissolved Solids.....	44.0
Total Solids.....	468.0
Ph. Value.....	6.8

Impurity figure..... 37

Incubator Closed Test.

Oxygen absorbed in three minutes before incubation.....	2.553.
Oxygen absorbed in three minutes after 5 days incubation.....	3.211
Colour after incubation.....	Unchanged.
Odour after incubation.....	Putrescent(slight)

Dissolved Oxygen absorbed in five days...
137.2

REMARKS

The above figures are fairly satisfactory for an
effluent before filtration. There could be a greater oxidation
in the plant, the failure of which, in my opinion, is probably
due to overloading.

Signed:- Arthur S.Carlos,
B.Sc(Lond) F.R.I.C.
PUBLIC ANALYST.

6th March, 1951.

COPY OF CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Of a sample of EFFLUENT.

Marked Blandford Sewage Disposal Works, taken after filtration
9.15 a.m. 22/2/51.

Received from the Borough Surveyor, Blandford, on the 23rd February.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned Sample
with the following results:- (expressed in parts per million)

Ammonia, free.....	2.650
Ammonia, albuminoid.....	2.300
Nitrites.....	Trace.
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	5.08
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80 deg. F.	7.483
Chlorine.....	36.5
Suspended solids.....	55.7
Dissolved solids.....	530.3
Total Solids.....	586.0
Ph.Value.....	6.9

Impurity figure..... 15

Incubator Closed Test:-

Oxygen absorbed in 3 mins. before incubation....	2.183
Oxygen absorbed in 3 mins. after 5 days incubation.....	2.245
Colour after incubation.....	Unchanged.
Odour after incubation.....	Slightly earthy.

Dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days.....41.7

REMARKS

This Effluent fails to comply with the requirements laid down
by the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. The suspended solids
and dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days exceed the limits by
25.7 and 21.7 parts per million respectively.

From comparison of the above results with those given by the
sample taken before filtration, I am of the opinion that the filters
either need cleaning or are heavily overloaded.

6th March, 1951

Signed:- Arthur S. Carlos.
B.Sc (Lond) F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst.

DRY REFUSE.

Household refuse is collected from the town once weekly and the Council control one tip. Towards the end of the year structural repairs were carried out to the building and the incinerator used.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' ANNUAL TABULAR STATEMENTSVISITS

Number of houses inspected as a result of complaints.....	68
Amusement places.....	3
Schools.....	3
In connection with water supplies.....	50
Refuse tip.....	12
Public conveniences.....	20
Sewers.....	25
Drains.....	190
Rat infestation.....	3
Sewage disposal works.....	12
New buildings.....	21
Visits not classified.....	50
Number of houses in respect of which informal notices were served..	12
Number of informal notices complied with.....	12

Nuisances abated.

Inside plastering repairs.....	3
Floors renewed or repaired.....	5
Roofs renewed or repaired.....	9
Downpiping or guttering renewed or repaired.....	10
Ceiling repaired.....	10
Staircases repaired.....	3
Grates or ovens renewed or repaired.....	12
Walls or ceilings cleaned or re-decorated (rooms).....	1
Accumulations removed.....	1
Water taps or pipes repaired.....	21

Drainage Work

Drains tested with smoke included drains on building sites.....	72
New drains constructed.....	32
Drains relaid.....	4
Drains repaired.....	6
Drains cleansed.....	50
Intercepting traps fixed.....	4
Soil pipes or vent shafts fixed or repaired.....	4
Lavatory basins provided.....	4

Water Closets.

Additional W.C's provided.....	43
W.C's re-constructed.....	2
New pedestal pans fixed.....	3
W.C's cleansed.....	5

Slaughter House.

The present buildings continued to be used throughout the year. The meat inspection has been carried out by a firm of Veterinary Surgeons acting as meat inspectors for the Council.

Inspection of Meat at Abattoir

Weight of meat condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption..... 21,886 lbs.

Weight of offal condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption..... 22,111 lbs.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed.	1394	1816	526	1991	361
Number inspected.	1394	1816	526	1991	361
All diseases except					
Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	16		9	4	21
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned.	9				8

MORTUARY

The Damory Street Mortuary has been reconditioned and decorated, and used on three occasions.

RODENT CONTROL

In conjunction with the Blandford Rural District Council, a full-time Rodent Operator was appointed in August. A table of his work in Blandford Borough is appended:-

<u>TYPE OF VERMIN</u> <u>RATS</u>	<u>Council</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>Agricultural</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total No. of visits made.	11	538	151	1	701
Total No. of premises inspected					
(a) complaint (a)	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	4
(b) survey (b)	1	189	76	1	267
Total No. of premises found infested.					
(a) complaint (a)	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	4
(b) survey. (b)	1	65	15	1	82
Number of premises treated.	1	69	15	Nil	85
Number of premises cleared.	1	62	12	Nil	75
Number of premises re-treated and cleared.	1	2	Nil	Nil	3
Number of pre-baits laid.	45	284	375	Nil	704
Number of poison baits laid.	34	230	300	Nil	564
Number of instances where other methods used.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Number of rats destroyed (est)	27	81	120	Nil	228
Number of bodies re-covered.	9	27	40	Nil	76
Number of block control schemes (a) local (b) in conjunction with.					(a) 4 (b) 1
<u>MICE</u>					
No. of premises treated.	Nil	17	2	Nil	19
No. of premises cleared.	Nil	14	2	Nil	16

FACTORIES.

The number of factories registered..... 39
 The number of inspections made during the year..... 19

The Factories Act, 1937 - Part One of the Act.

<u>PREMISES</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used.	5	13	Nil
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.	34	16	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	39	29	Nil

OUTWORKERS

The number of outworkers employed in the district during the year was 15.

No infectious diseases occurred during the year in any of the premises where outworkers were employed.

SECTION DHOUSING - 1

Owing to the lack of staff, no routine inspection of houses has been possible.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Number of new houses erected during the year.....	20
Number of new houses under construction but not completed by December 31st, 1951.....	20
Total number constructed before 1951.....	170

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Number built in 1951.....	3
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There are 21 requisitioned properties.

SECTION EINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.ICE CREAM PREMISES

Number of Registered Ice Cream Premises.....	8
Visits.....	12
Samples taken.....	19

Provisional Grade 1.....	17
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Provisional Grade 2.....	2
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The test used is the methylene blue reduction test recommended by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory. Grade 3 suspicious and Grade 4, unsatisfactory.

BUTCHERS' PREMISES

Weight of meat condemned.....	244 lbs.
Weight of tinned meat condemned.....	132 lbs

FISH INSPECTION

Quantity condemned..... 246 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs

TINNED GOODS

Inspection at provision shops and stores condemned..... 192 tins.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

Restaurants and food preparing premises.....	10
Butchers' premises.....	24
Provision shops and stores.....	18
Greengrocers and fishmongers.....	10
Slaughterhouse.....	12
Visits to Railway Stations re food.....	3

SECTION FPREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.1951

WHOOPING COUGH.....	18
TUBERCULOSIS.....	2
MEASLES.....	7
POLIOMYELITIS.....	3
SCARLET FEVER.....	4
ACUTE PNEUMONIA.....	4
DYSENTARY.....	1

NUMBER OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Pulmonary.....	7 male.	6 Female.
Non-pulmonary.....	0 male.	6 Female.

Two new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year,
one pulmonary and one non-pulmonary.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year has been small and the three cases of poliomyelitis were non-paralytic and made uneventful recoveries.

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Regional Hospital Board arranged for a Mass Radiography Unit to operate in Blandford during April. The result of this survey appeared satisfactory.

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number X-rayed.	436	633	205	1274
Number re-called for large films.....	21	19	2	42
Number referred to Chest Clinic. (probably tuberculosis)	-	-	-	-
Number referred to hospital or doctor for other conditions.....	2	3	-	5

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE AREA.

<u>YEARS</u>	<u>Scarlet</u> <u>Fever.</u>	<u>Whooping</u> <u>Cough.</u>	<u>Acute</u> <u>Pneumonia</u>	<u>Acute</u> <u>Poliomyelitis.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Dysentary</u>
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UNDER ONE.

1 - 2 years.	5	4			1	
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3 - 4 years.		5			3	
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5 - 9 years	2	7			1	
-------------	---	---	--	--	---	--

10-14 years.	1	1			2	
--------------	---	---	--	--	---	--

15-24 years.				3		
--------------	--	--	--	---	--	--

25 and over.			4			1
-----------------	--	--	---	--	--	---

